Health hazard of tobacco

*122. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the dimension/statistics pertaining to health hazard by tobacco;

(b) how many tobacco-related deaths occur in the country daily/annually;

(c) whether 40 per cent of all health problems in the country are due to tobacco and the Centre is spending Rs. 45 crores thereof;

(d) whether a powerful lobby is opposing ware against tobacco;

(e) what measures are being taken to effectively enforce total ban on smoking in public; and

(f) how hazardous is 'GUTKA' and what is his Ministry's stand regarding its ban?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There are studies to indicate that approximately 40% of the diseases burden in the country is associated with some form of tobacco and its products. Approximately 50% of all cancer deaths in the country are due to tobacco consumption. The majority of the cardio vascular diseases, cancer and lung disorders are directly attributable to tobacco consumption. No such specific data regarding the death due to tobacco year wise is being maintained centrally. However as per report of the Tobacco Control of India 2004, every year approximately 0.8 million people die due to tobacco related illness in India. As per an article titled 'A Nationally Representative Case—Control Study of Smoking and Death in India' published by New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) dated 13th February, 2008, smoking causes a large number of premature deaths in India. This study estimates that in 2010, approximately 1 million premature deaths would occur due to smoking tobacco in some form or other. Of the 1 million deaths, approximately 70% (1 lakh women and 6 lakh men) will occur in middle age rather than old age.

(d) Insofar as lobby opposing the Tobacco Control efforts, there have been various representations from industry and other relevant stakeholder objecting to the specific Rules/ Provision of the Act, 2003. The Government has taken into consideration these representations, while formulating the policies keeping in mind the overall public health objective.

(e) Government has enacted a comprehensive tobacco control legislation titled "The Cigarettes And Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisements and Regulation to Trade And Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, in May 2003, for discouraging the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Some important provisions of the Act, which are applicable to whole of the country, are:—

- Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products.
- Prohibition of smoking in a public place;
- Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products to a person below the age of 18 years and within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.
- Mandatory depiction of statutory health warning on all tobacco packs.

State Governments/UTs are the implementing agencies for enforcing these provisions. Central Government is launching a comprehensive National Tobacco Control Programme to upscale capacity of the states to effectively enforce the tobacco control laws as also to bring about awareness about ill effects of tobacco in the country. A provision of approximately Rs. 415 crores has been proposed in the Eleventh five-year plan. For 2007-08, Rs. 40.00 crores was allocated under the National Tobacco Control Programme.

(f) Gutka is a tobacco product which is injurious to health. At present there is no proposal to ban gutka. However, The Cigarettes And Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade And Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, and The National Tobacco Control Programme envisages measures to reduce consumption/supply of tobacco products.

Garib Rath

†*123. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Garib Rath' trains which have running so far as per announcement made in the last Railway Budget;

(b) whether any of such trains have not started running so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the remaining 'Garib Rath' trains are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Out of the 8 pairs of 'Garib Rath' trains which were announced in the Railway Budget 2007-2008, 5 pairs of 'Garib Rath' trains have been introduced so far.

(b) and (c) Introduction of trains announced in the Budget are done during the course of the ensuing financial year depending upon availability of resources including availability of coaches from production units.

(d) 2831/2832 Bhubaneswar-Ranchi Garib Rath and 2517/2518 Kolkata-Guwahati Garib Rath is to be introduced in the current financial year. Further, 2205/2206 Nizamuddin-Dehradun Garib Rath Express is to be introduced as Jammu Tawi-Kathgodam Garib Rath trains (as announced in the Railway Budget 2008-09) in the remaining part of the financial year.

Supreme Court notice on sale of spurious drugs

*124. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has issued Notice to M/s. Cadila Health Care for selling sub-standard drugs which are unfit for human consumption; and

(b) if so, what are the complete details and action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has issued notice to Cadila Health Care Ltd., Ahmedabad, on the application for condonation of delay in filing the SLP No. 9593 of 2007 filed by the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.